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WEIRD

DEC. 1968

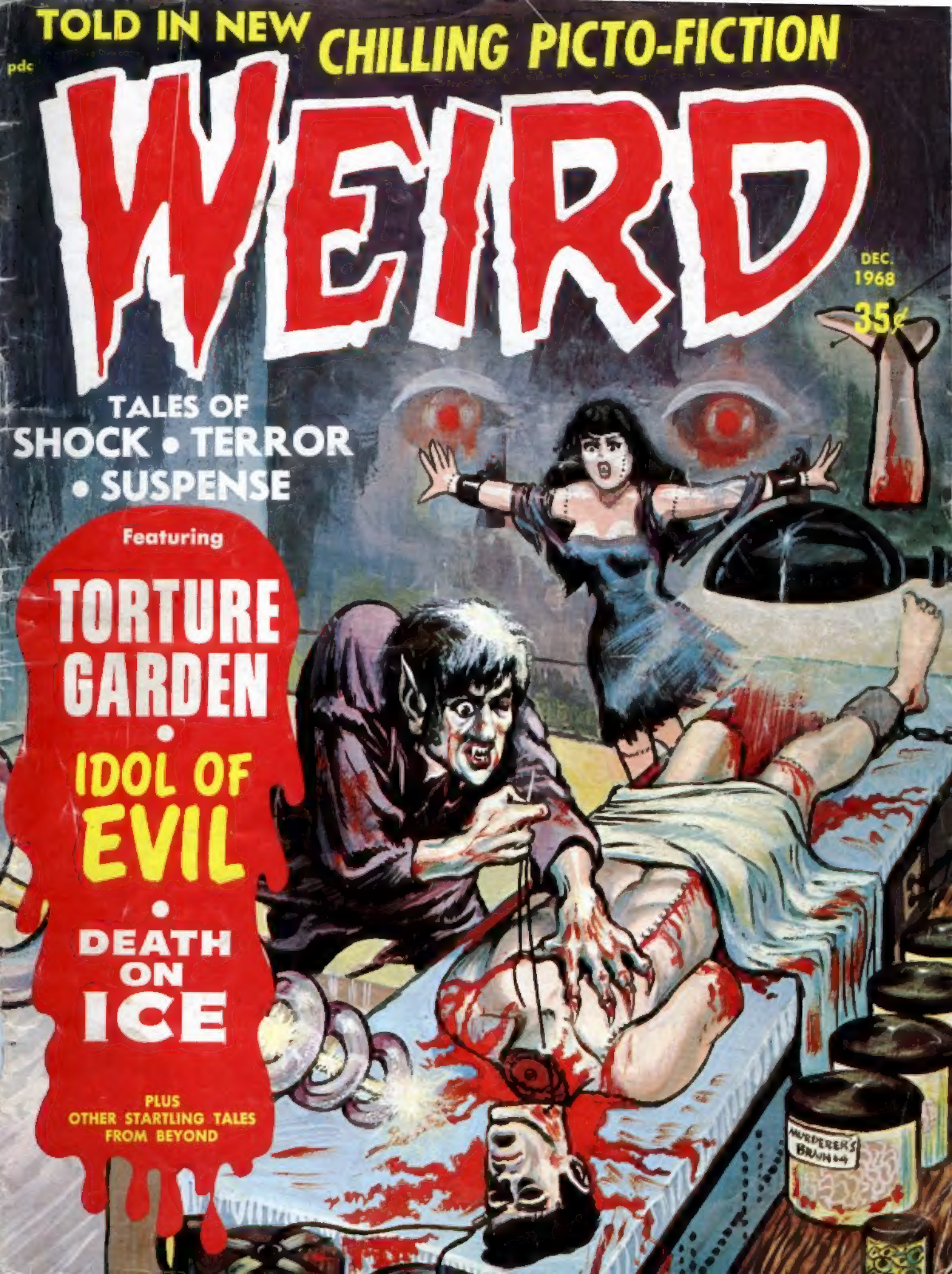
35¢

TALES OF SHOCK • TERROR • SUSPENSE

Featuring

TORTURE GARDEN • IDOL OF EVIL • DEATH ON ICE

PLUS OTHER STARTLING TALES FROM BEYOND



I'M JUST RETURNING FROM THE APOTHECARY, WHERE I LEARNED QUITE A BIT ABOUT CURES! --YOU THERE! STOP SNICKERING! NOW LISTEN! ...DID YOU KNOW THAT---

IRISH HEALING STONES

WORK WONDERS FOR MINOR ACHES AND PAINS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD EXCEPT- *ENGLAND!*

(AND THAT AINT BLARNEY!)

NOT TOO LONG AGO, ***A GLASS CANE*** HUNG FROM A CEILING, PROTECTED ANY HOUSE FROM ILLNESS and BAD LUCK! FAILURE TO CLEAN THE ROD EACH DAY, RESULTED IN DISEASE BAD LUCK and EVEN DEATH! *(HEY, DID YOU CLEAN YOUR ROD TODAY?... HMM?)*

--AN OLD WIVES CURE FOR PAINFUL ARTHRITIS WAS TO RUB A GOLD WATCH OVER THE SWOLLEN AREA, ... *AND THE PAIN STOPPED!* **TODAY,** DOCTORS GIVE ARTHRITIS PATIENTS GOLD INJECTIONS TO STOP THE PAIN!

(P.S. NEVER MENTION THIS TO A DOCTOR, HE'LL SEND YOU TO A HEAD SHRINKER... ... A JIVARO EXPERT!)

GHOUL-BYE NOW, TILL NEXT WE MEET!

WEIRD

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What happens when you know the future? We dare you to read this spine-tingler of a tale about a man who knew!

Carl Burgos, Editor . . . Irving Fass, Art Director

WEIRD • DECEMBER 1968, VOL. 2 NO. 10, IS PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY BY EERIE PUBLICATIONS, INC., 150 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10011. THE PUBLISHER ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR UNSOLICITED MATERIAL. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO PERSONS LIVING OR DEAD IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL.

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FOR UNTOLD CENTURIES, THE GROTESQUE STONE GOD HAD LURKED THERE IN THE LUSH JUNGLE, FORGOTTEN BY THE OUTSIDE WORLD! BUT GREED IS UNIVERSAL AND MEN WILL DARE THE GREATEST OF DANGERS WHEN GOLD IS THE LURE! SO THE ADVENTURERS CAME TO THE FETID, ROTTING TEMPLE TO BRAVE THE WRATH OF ANCIENT DEITIES, AND FOUND — **THE JEWELED SERPENT...**

IDOL of EVIL

NEXT MORNING...
OKAY, BLOKES! I'LL WAIT ONE WEEK FOR YOU-NO LONGER! GOOD LUCK!
RIGHT, CAP'N! IF WE AIN'T BACK IN A WEEK- WE WON'T EVER COME BACK!

THREE DAYS PASS...
WHEWW- NEVER SAW SUCH JUNGLE IN MY LIFE! GOT TO HACK OUR WAY EVERY STEP!
C'MON! WE'RE ALMOST THERE!

WE MADE IT! THE TEMPLE OF KUBLA! THE MAN WAS RIGHT!
YEAH! LET'S GO AND SEE IF THE BLASTED IDOL IS THERE!

BUT SUDDENLY...
HUH! A NATIVE! DON'T WANT US TO GO IN!
I AM A PRIEST OF KUBLA! NONE MAY ENTER THE TEMPLE!

GET OUT OF THE WAY, YOU! WE COME A LONG WAY AND NO CRUMMY NATIVE IS GONNA STOP US!
STAND BACK! I WILL SLAY ANY WHO DARE TO DEFILE THE TEMPLE OF KUBLA!

AGHHHH!
THAT'S THE WAY, BALDY! HE'S HAD IT! NOW LET'S GO GET THAT BLOODY IDOL!

AND INSIDE...
SO THAT'S IT, HUH! CRIPES, LOOK AT THE SNAKE AROUND ITS NECK!
YEAH! THE SNAKE! THAT'S WHAT WE'RE AFTER, MY BOY!
THE JEWELED SERPENT OF KUBLA! LOOK AT THEM! RUBIES, PEARLS, DIAMONDS, EMERALDS!
ONE SWAT WITH THIS MACHETE OF MINE AND THE FAMOUS JEWELED SERPENT IS OURS, RED, MY BOY! WE'LL BE RICH AS KINGS SOON AS WE SET OUT OF THIS JUNGLE!
BUT THE BLASTED THING WON'T COME OFF! LIKE IT WAS GROWING ON THE DARNED IDOLS NECK! WELL-I KNOW HOW TO FIX THAT!
GHUNNNN-
BALDY! IT-IT G-GROANED!
DON'T BE A BLASTED FOOL! IT'S ONLY A STONE IDOL! LOOK AT THE SERPENT!
Y-YEAH! SEE HOW IT GLITTERS!
YOU WAS REAL SMART TO FIND IT, BALDY! BUT LET'S GET STARTED OUT OF THIS JUNGLE! I'M ALL NERVES!
I WILL START, RED!

BUT YOU WON'T BE GOING! SORRY, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO SHARE THE JEWELED SERPENT WITH ANYONE!
N-NO! YOU CAN'T, BALDY! NOT OLD RED, NOT YOUR OLD PAL!

CAN'T I THOUGH? YOU ALWAYS WERE A FOOL, RED! AND THERE'S NO PLACE IN THIS WORLD FOR FOOLS! YOU AND THAT IDOL CAN KEEP EACH OTHER COMPANY!
GAAAAA—

THAT TAKES CARE OF HIM! NOW TO SET OUT OF THE JUNGLE WITH THE SERPENT! THE CAP'N WON'T WAIT FOREVER!
HMM-THE THING IS HEAVY!

AWKWARD, TOO, AND I'LL NEED BOTH MY HANDS! GUESS THE BEST WAY TO CARRY IT IS AROUND MY NECK, SAME AS THE— (CHUCKLE)— IDOL!

HARDLY HAS BALDY LEFT THE TEMPLE WHEN A GHASTLY THING HAPPENS! WITH A GRINDING OF STONE, LIKE ANCIENT BONES, THE IDOL LURCHES FROM ITS THRONE IN ANSWER TO A MACABRE SUMMONS...
AHRROOOO— COME TO ME! COME! OHWWWW—

AARRRR—WE ARE WHOLE AGAIN! NOW-WE-WILL-HAVE-REVENGE!

BEFORE LONG, BALDY SENSES THAT SOMETHING IS DOGGING HIS STEPS...
HMM- THAT'S FUNNY! THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING CRASHING THROUGH THE JUNGLE BACK THERE!

WE-GO-ON! HE-WHO-DEFIES-KUBLA-MUST-DIE!

SUDDENLY...
AAAAAAH-THE IDOL! C-COMING AFTER ME!

RUN-FOOL-NONE-CAN-ESCAPE-FROM KUBLA!

A T-TIGER PIT! BUT IT GIVES ME AN IDEA! MAYBE I CAN TRAP THAT THING!

HA-HA! I'M NOT LICKED YET! NOT OLD BALDY! I CAN HIDE THIS OLD PIT WITH THESE LEAVES, SO IT CAN'T SEE, MAYBE IT'LL FALL IN! THAT WILL GIVE ME A CHANCE TO GET AWAY! WHEWW-WHAT A BLOODY MONSTER IT IS!

SO BALDY LURES THE LURCHING IDOL ON AND ON...
COME ON, YOU BLASTED UGLY HUNK OF STONE! I AIN'T AFRAID OF YOU! COME AND GET ME!
KUBLA-GET! KILL!

SUDDENLY, BALDY SCREAMS IN TERROR...
HUH! AGGGG- THE S-SERPENT S-STRANGLING ME! AAAAAA!

C-CAN'T BREATHE! Y!!!!!!!!!!!
HO-HO! THE-JEWELED-SERPENT-TAKES-OWN-REVENGE! HO-HO-HO!

EEEEEEE-EE-
FALLING INTO THE PIT!

SO, WITH A STAKE THROUGH HIS BLACK AND MURDEROUS HEART, BALDY COMES TO THE END OF A VILE LIFE! AS HE DIES THE JEWELED SERPENT RELEASES THE DEATH GRIP...

HO-NOW-KUBLA-TAKE-BODY-TO-FEED-HIS-FRIENDS-OF-THE-RIVER! HAS-BEEN-LONG-SINCE-THEY-HAVE-EATEN!

AND THE JEWELED SERPENT RETURNS TO ITS ANCIENT RESTING PLACE...
COME-JEWELED-ONE! ONCE-MORE-YOU-REST-AROUND-THE-THROAT-OF-KUBLA!
HISSS-SSSS

BACK THROUGH THE JUNGLE LURCHES THE STONE JUGGERNAUT, SMASHING EVERYTHING BEFORE IT...
HO-NOW-SOON-THE-FRIEND-OF-KUBLA-WILL-HAVE-MEAL!

FEED-WELL-MY-FRIENDS! LEAVE-NOT-EVEN-BONES!
ARRRRRRR-
SNAP
SNAP

AS KUBLA ONCE MORE APPROACHES HIS TEMPLE...
PRIESTS-ARE-FOOLS!
MASTER!
AIEEEE-YOUR PRIESTS WELCOME YOU, GREAT KUBLA!

FOR-LET-WHITE-MEN-DEFILE-TEMPLE-ONE-OF-YOU-DIE!
YIEEEE

GO, THE MASTER IS ANGRY! HE WILL SLAY US ALL!
NOW-KUBLA-CAN-REST-AGAIN!

KUBLA-KNOWS-OTHER-MEN-WILL-COME-TO-STEAL-JEWELED-SERPENT! WE-WILL-WAIT-AND-KILL-AS-ALWAYS-DO!

SO ONCE MORE THE JUNGLE CLOSES IN, THE TEMPLE RATS SCAMPER AND STARE WITH BEADY EYES, AND ON THE THRONE, BROODING AND WAITING-IS KUBLA...

OVER THE WOLF HOWL OF THE WIND CAME ANOTHER AND MORE SINISTER SOUND— THE SHRILL AND HORRIBLE CRY OF DEATH! TWO MEN AND A WOMAN, CHILLED WITH FEAR, STILL DARED TO CHALLENGE THE HIGHEST PEAK PEAK IN THE WORLD, PITTING THEIR OWN PUNY STRENGTH AGAINST TERRIBLE ELEMENTS WHICH HAD NEVER BEEN CONQUERED! BUT JUST AS SUCCESS WAS IN THEIR GRIP, THEY SAW THE GHASTLY SPECTRAL FIGURE AND SCREAMED IN TERROR AS THEY FELL VICTIMS TO **THE ANGRY MOUNTAIN**...

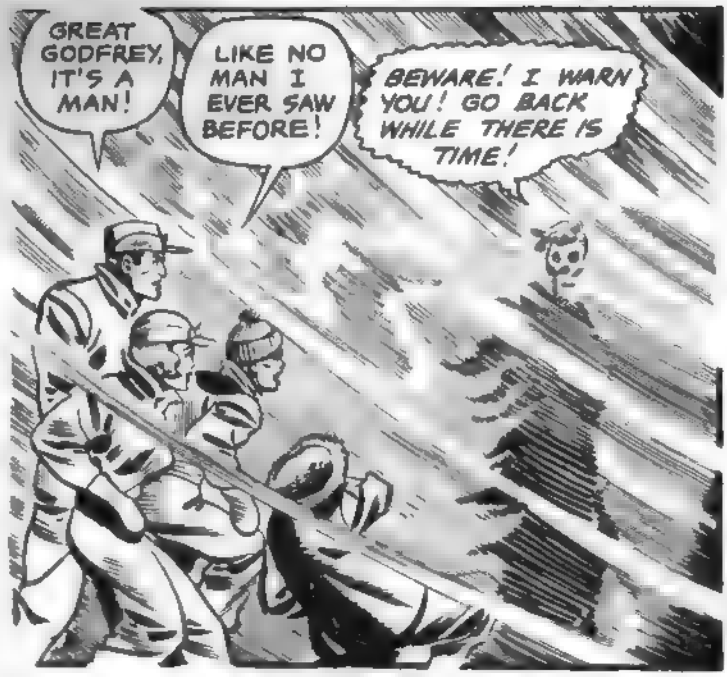
DEATH ON ICE

MY NAME IS SANDRA SCOTT AND THE STORY I'M ABOUT TO TELL IS TRUE, EVERY WORD OF IT! AND THIS IS HOW I LOOKED BEFORE THE STORY BEGAN SEVERAL MONTHS AGO! I WAS ONE OF A PARTY OF MOUNTAIN CLIMBERS— AND WE WERE GETTING READY TO TACKLE THE KING OF ALL MOUNTAINS—EVEREST!

MOUNT EVEREST, CRUEL AND UNCONQUERED BY MAN, IS IN REMOTE TIBET, PART OF THE HIMALAYAS! IT IS AN ICY GRAVEYARD FOR MOUNTAINEERS...

WITH OUR NATIVE GUIDE, OOG, WE STARTED UP THE LAST DANGEROUS STRETCH OF EVEREST...
HERE GOES, GANG! THREE THOUSAND YARDS AND WE'LL BE THE FIRST HUMANS EVER TO CLIMB EVEREST!
BE PLENTY CAREFUL NOW! MUCH DANGER!
ONLY THREE-THOUSAND YARDS, DAN — BUT IT'S ALMOST STRAIGHT UP!
DON'T THINK ABOUT ANYTHING BUT SUCCESS, SANDRA! WE'VE JUST GOT TO MAKE IT!
EASY NOW— WATCH YOUR FOOTING!
NOTHING TO THIS LITTLE CHASM— THE REAL GRIEF WILL COME LATER!
ONE OF THE TOUGHEST CHIMNEYS I EVER CLIMBED, BUT I'VE GOT TO KEEP UP WITH THE MEN! GOT TO PROVE I'M AS GOOD AS THEY ARE!
THEN, AS WE STOPPED TO REST, I SAW OOG STUDYING THE SKY INTENTLY...
NO GOOD FOR US! BIG STORM COME FAST! WE BETTER MAKE CAMP FOR TIME!
MINUTES LATER THE BLIZZARD STRUCK WITH A BLINDING FURY...
OH, THAT WIND IS TERRIBLE!
HOLD ON, EVERYONE! CAN'T LET THE TENT BLOW AWAY!

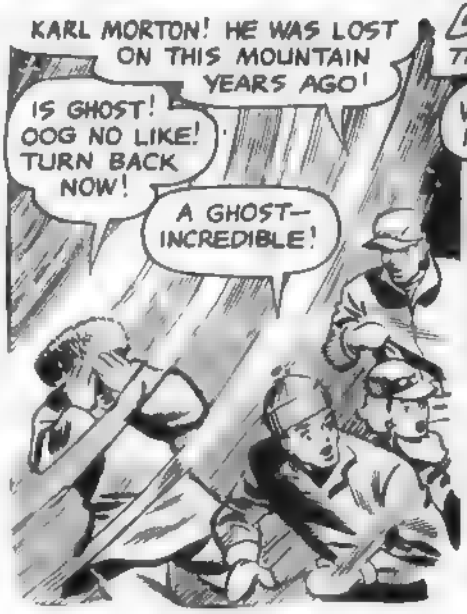
SUDDENLY I HEARD OUR GUIDE CRY OUT IN HORROR...
Y////// — LOOK! SOME STRANGE THING COMES OUT OF STORM!


GREAT GODFREY, IT'S A MAN!
LIKE NO MAN I EVER SAW BEFORE!
BEWARE! I WARN YOU! GO BACK WHILE THERE IS TIME!

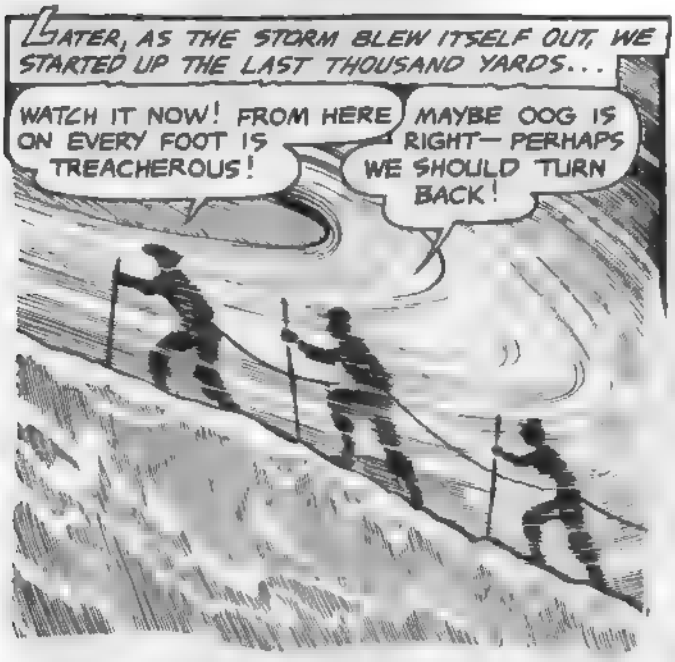
THE MOUNTAIN IS ANGRY! IT WILL KILL YOU AS IT KILLED ME UNLESS YOU GIVE UP THIS ATTEMPT! TURN BACK!

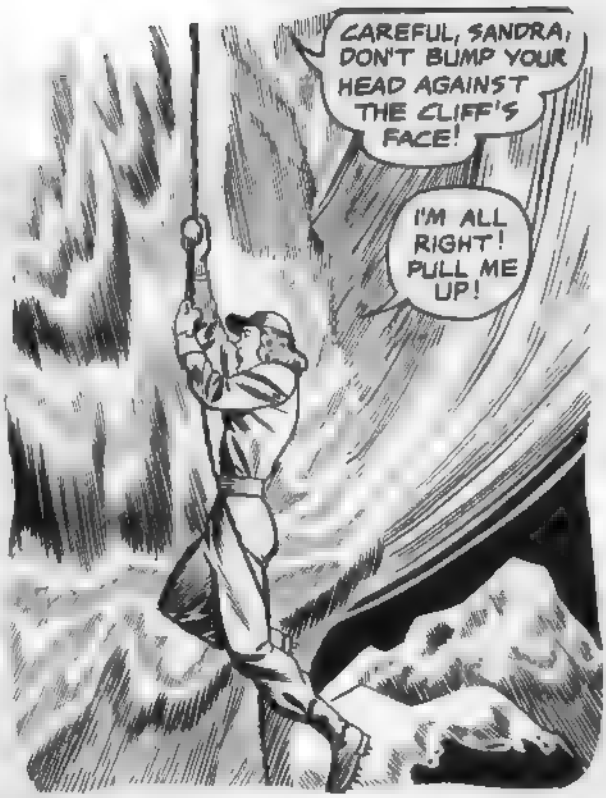
THE GHASTLY FIGURE STARTED TO VANISH INTO THE STORM...
HE SAID THE MOUNTAIN K-KILLED HIM!
COME BACK, MAN! WHO ARE YOU, AND WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

HAAAAA! MY NAME ONCE WAS KARL MORTON! AND I GO TO A PLACE FROM WHICH THERE IS NO RETURNING!

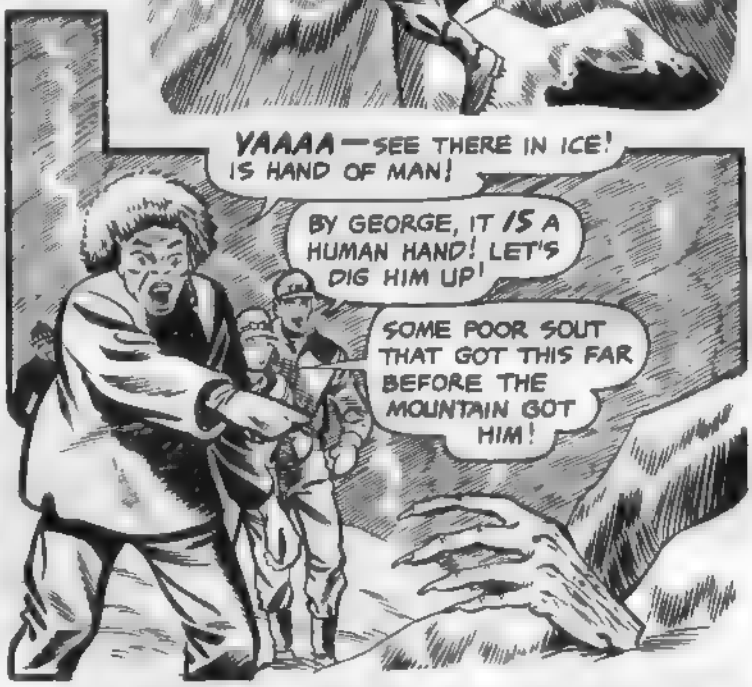

KARL MORTON! HE WAS LOST ON THIS MOUNTAIN YEARS AGO!
IS GHOST! OOG NO LIKE! TURN BACK NOW!
A GHOST— INCREDIBLE!

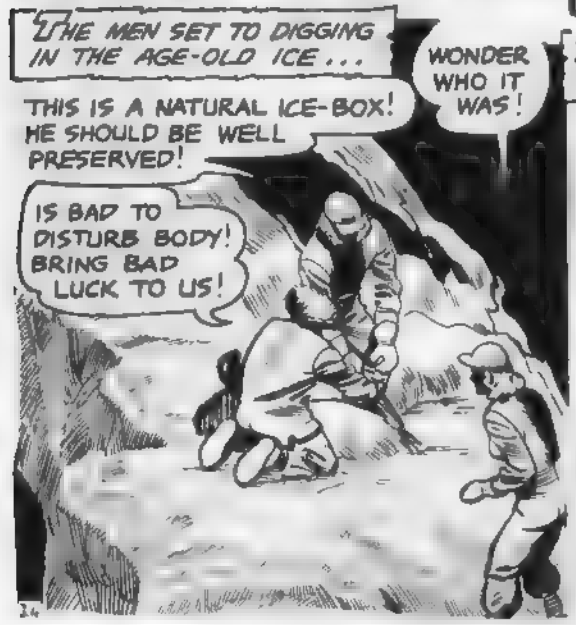
DAN, THE LEADER OF OUR PARTY, THREATENED OOG WITH A GUN...
WE'RE GOING ON, UNDERSTAND? I'M NOT GOING TO BE CHEATED BY A GHOST!


LATER, AS THE STORM BLEW ITSELF OUT, WE STARTED UP THE LAST THOUSAND YARDS...
WATCH IT NOW! FROM HERE ON EVERY FOOT IS TREACHEROUS!
MAYBE OOG IS RIGHT— PERHAPS WE SHOULD TURN BACK!


CAREFUL, SANDRA, DON'T BUMP YOUR HEAD AGAINST THE CLIFF'S FACE!
I'M ALL RIGHT! PULL ME UP!

THERE SHE IS AT LAST! THE PEAK OF EVEREST—ONLY EIGHT-HUNDRED FEET AWAY!
OOG STILL THINKS BETTER GO BACK!


YAAAA—SEE THERE IN ICE! IS HAND OF MAN!
BY GEORGE, IT IS A HUMAN HAND! LET'S DIG HIM UP!
SOME POOR SOUT THAT GOT THIS FAR BEFORE THE MOUNTAIN GOT HIM!

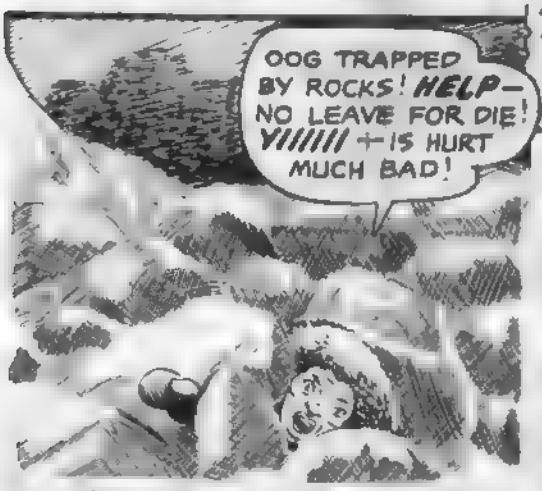

THE MEN SET TO DIGGING IN THE AGE-OLD ICE...
WONDER WHO IT WAS!
THIS IS A NATURAL ICE-BOX! HE SHOULD BE WELL PRESERVED!
IS BAD TO DISTURB BODY! BRING BAD LUCK TO US!

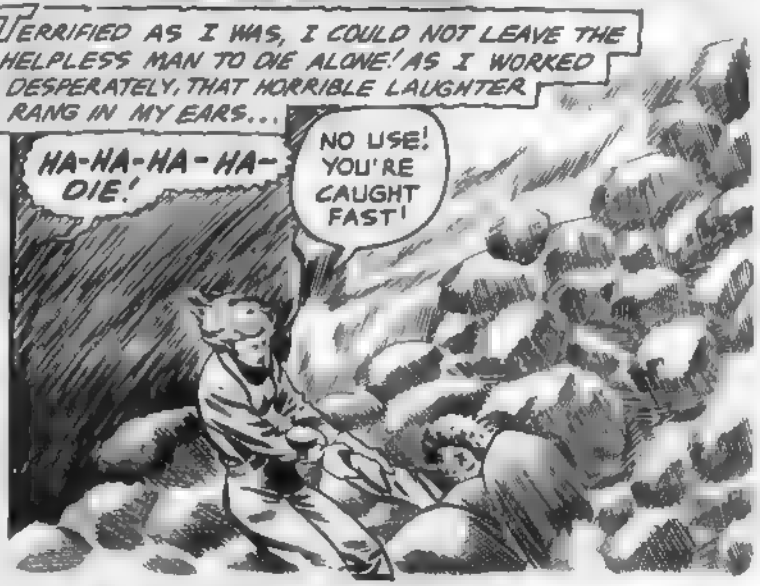
TO OUR HORROR WE RECOGNIZED THE THING THAT STARED UP AT US...
WHY—IT'S THE SAME...
YES—THE MAN, OR GHOST THAT WARNED US BACK THERE! KARL MORTON—OR WHAT'S LEFT OF HIM! THIS IS WHERE HE DIED!
YAAAA—HIS GHOST TELL US GO BACK!

AS WE STARED AT THE CORPSE WE SUDDENLY HEARD A PEAL OF MANIACAL LAUGHTER! LIKE GHASTLY THUNDER IT ROLLED DOWN THE MOUNTAINSIDE! AND WHAT WE SAW BROUGHT COLD SWEAT OUT ON OUR BODIES...
HA-HA-HA-HA-HO-HO-HO-HO-HA-HA-HA-HA-
YIIIIII—IS DEATH SPIRIT OF MOUNTAIN!
WHAT A HORROR!
B-BUT WHAT IS IT?
I AM THE MOUNTAIN DEATH! GO BACK, FOOLS, WHILE THERE IS STILL TIME! COME ONE STEP CLOSER AND YOU DIE! NONE WILL EVER CONQUER THE MOUNTAIN!
AS WE STOOD, SHAKING IN TERROR, AND UNDECIDED, DAN STARTED FORWARD! ONLY HE WAS UNAFRAID...
I'M GOING ON! NO GHOST, OR SPIRIT, OR WHATEVER IT IS, IS GOING TO KEEP ME FROM LICKING EVEREST! YOU CAN GO BACK IF YOU'RE AFRAID!
DAN—BE CAREFUL!
H-HE'S ALMOST TO THE TOP AND NOTHING HAS HAPPENED YET! MAYBE HE WILL MAKE IT AFTER ALL!
BUT JUST AS DAN WAS WITHIN A FEW FEET OF THE TOP...
A CREVICE OPENING—YAAAAAA—
HA-HA-HA-HO-HO-HEEE-NOW YOU ALL DIE!
AN AVALANCHE! RUN!
HELP—GAAAAA—
OHHH!
RUN, MISSY, NO USE STOP FOR HIM! IS MUCH DEAD!

WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT, OOG! HEAR THAT HORRIBLE LAUGHTER — THAT THING IS TAUNTING US!
MOUNTAIN DEATH IS MUCH ANGRY!

OOG, THE ROCKS! CAVING IN ON US! RUN! MAYBE WE CAN FIND ANOTHER LEDGE DOWN LOWER ON THE SLOPE!
I'M CAUGHT, MISSY! HELP!


OOG TRAPPED BY ROCKS! HELP— NO LEAVE FOR DIE! YIIIIII + IS HURT MUCH BAD!


TERRIFIED AS I WAS, I COULD NOT LEAVE THE HELPLESS MAN TO DIE ALONE! AS I WORKED DESPERATELY, THAT HORRIBLE LAUGHTER RANG IN MY EARS...
HA-HA-HA-HA-DIE!
NO USE! YOU'RE CAUGHT FAST!

HO-HO-HO-HO— YOU WAITED TOO LONG! THE MAN DIES FIRST, THEN YOU! YOU WILL NEVER DEFY THE MOUNTAIN AGAIN!
THAT CREATURE— ON SKIS! COMING AFTER ME!

OOG DIED BENEATH A CRUEL SHOWER OF ROCKS...
NO—YAAAAAAA—

I WAS OUT OF MY MIND WITH FEAR! I RAN, SLIPPING AND FALLING DOWN THE ICY MOUNTAINSIDE...

HO-HO-HO-HO— NO USE TRYING TO ESCAPE ME! HEEEEEE-HAAAAA—

AAAAAAAAAA—

SUDDENLY I COULD RUN NO FARTHER—I HAD REACHED THE EDGE OF AN ABYSS...

T-TRAPPED! IT'LL GET ME NOW, UNLESS I CAN ROPE MYSELF DOWN!

HA-HA-HA-HA-HAAA—

HO-HO-HO-HO— HEEE-EEE— GOT YOU NOW!

ONE LAST CHANCE! IF I CAN LET MYSELF DOWN INTO THE CREVICE BEFORE IT GETS THOSE TERRIBLE HANDS ON ME!

PRAY TO HEAVEN THE ROPE HOLDS SAFE! IT D-DOESN'T SEEM TO BE COMING AFTER ME!

BUT THE HORROR HAD PLANS OF ITS OWN...

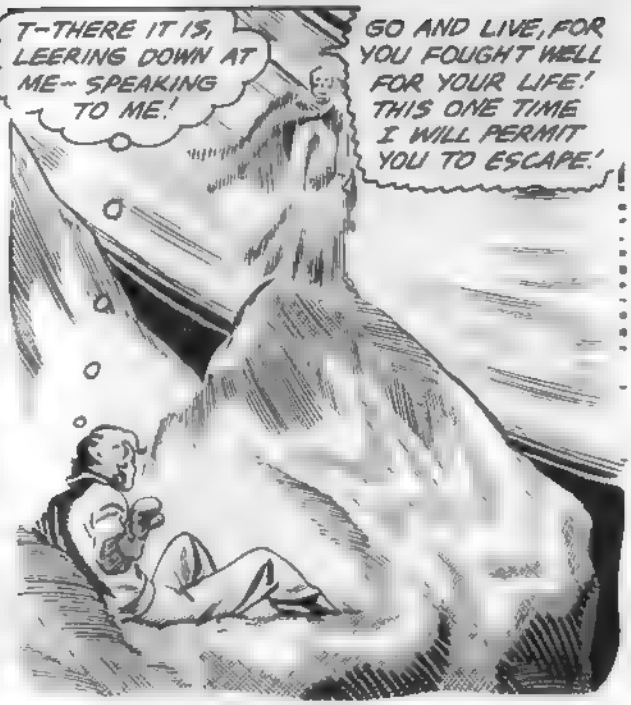
HE-HEE-HEE-HEEE— YOU THINK TO ESCAPE WITH A FOOLISH TRICK LIKE THAT!

I'LL JUST HAUL UP THE ROPE!

THE TERRIBLE CREATURE BEGAN TO PULL ME UP, SO THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING TO DO...

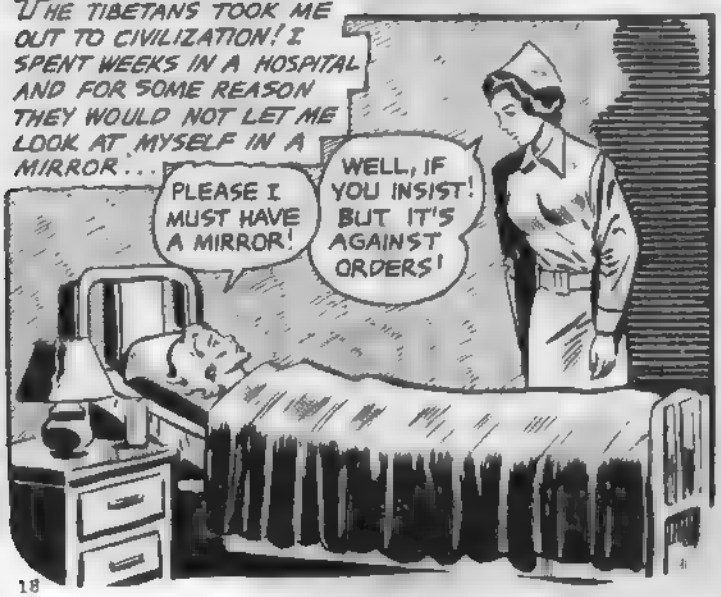
FALLING! BETTER TO DIE ON THE ROCKS BELOW!

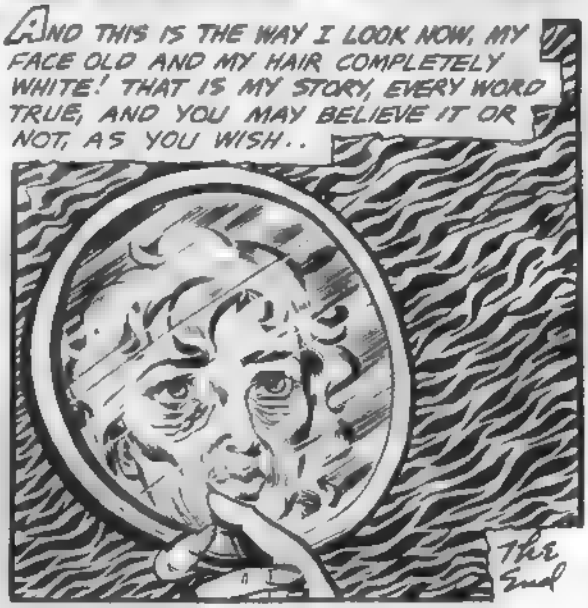
BUT LUCK WAS WITH ME — I FELL INTO A SOFT BANK OF SNOW...
S-SAFE FOR A TIME YET! BUT I WONDER WHY IT HASN'T COME AFTER ME?


T-THERE IT IS, LEERING DOWN AT ME-- SPEAKING TO ME!
GO AND LIVE, FOR YOU FOUGHT WELL FOR YOUR LIFE! THIS ONE TIME I WILL PERMIT YOU TO ESCAPE!

YOU WILL SERVE AS A WARNING TO OTHERS! TELL THEM— STAY AWAY FROM THE MOUNTAIN! HA-HA-HA—HEE—HEE-HOO-HOO— I GO NOW!

HOURS LATER, DAZED AND STILL SHAKING WITH TERROR, I REACHED OUR CAMP ON A LEDGE OF THAT AWFUL MOUNTAIN...
WHERE OTHERS, MISSY? WE HEAR STRANGE THUNDER!
T-THUNDER? OH, NO! NOT THUNDER! THAT WAS--(SOB)— LAUGHTER YOU HEARD! THE OTHERS — ALL DEAD!


THE TIBETANS TOOK ME OUT TO CIVILIZATION! I SPENT WEEKS IN A HOSPITAL AND FOR SOME REASON THEY WOULD NOT LET ME LOOK AT MYSELF IN A MIRROR...
PLEASE I MUST HAVE A MIRROR!
WELL, IF YOU INSIST! BUT IT'S AGAINST ORDERS!


AND THIS IS THE WAY I LOOK NOW, MY FACE OLD AND MY HAIR COMPLETELY WHITE! THAT IS MY STORY, EVERY WORD TRUE, AND YOU MAY BELIEVE IT OR NOT, AS YOU WISH..
The End

HIS WAS THE MOST HORRIBLE DILEMMA OF ALL TIME! TWO WOMEN LOVED HIM, FOUGHT FOR HIM, SWORE NEVER TO LEAVE HIM! SOME MEN MIGHT HAVE ENVIED HIM — UNTIL THEY KNEW THE WHOLE TERRIBLE TRUTH! BECAUSE ONE OF THE WOMEN WAS DEAD...

FEAR of the WITCH

SO FARSON DESCENDS INTO THE BLACK PIT OF GRIEF... FILLED WITH SELF-ACCUSATION AND LONELINESS.
I FEEL SO—EMPTY! I DON'T WANT TO GO ON LIVING WITHOUT BETH! IT WAS MY FAULT! I...
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, DICK! IT WAS AN ACCIDENT! AND TIME WILL DULL THE PAIN!

AND FOR MONTHS...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND! BETH SAID SHE WOULD COME BACK TO ME! BUT I'VE WAITED FOR MONTHS! EVERY NIGHT, ALONE, AND THERE'S NO SIGN! NOTHING!

UNTIL FINALLY...
MY FRIENDS WERE RIGHT! TIME HAS HELPED! I'LL NEVER FORGET BETH, BUT NOW I'M SURE SHE ISN'T COMING BACK! IT'S TIME I BEGAN TO LIVE AGAIN!

UNTIL, IN THE NATURAL COURSE OF THINGS...
H—HELLO!
I SEE YOU DON'T NEED ME ANY LONGER! HAVE FUN!
THANKS, WE WILL! AND THANKS AGAIN FOR INTRODUCING ME TO THIS BEAUTIFUL GIRL! JANET! A NICE NAME!

LOVE COMES AGAIN AND HE MARRIES JANET PAXTON...
BUSY LITTLE BEAVER, AREN'T YOU? YOU'VE BEEN TOSSING OUT MY BACHELOR POSSESSIONS FOR A WEEK NOW!
HMMM— THEY NEEDED TOSSING OUT! AND WHAT IS THIS?
WHO IS SHE? YOU NEVER TOLD ME...
THAT PICTURE? OH, IT'S SOMEONE I USED TO KNOW! I— I DON'T WANT IT ANY LONGER!

A FEW MINUTES LATER IT BEGINS...
HERE'S YOUR HOT MILK, JANET! JANET! WHAT'S WRONG?
AAAAAAA— PAIN—AWFUL!
AA!!!!!!!!!!!!—

Y!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!—
SOMETHING— HURTING! OOOOO— HORRIBLE! FEEL LIKE I—DYING!
EEEEEEEEE—

BEFORE HIS TERROR-STRICKEN EYES HE SEES THE CHANGE...
GREAT HEAVENS! BETH! IT'S Y-YOU! YOU'VE COME BACK! YOU'VE TAKEN JANET'S BODY!
N-NOT YET! BUT SOON! I—HAH-HAH— TOLD YOU I'D COME BACK, DARLING!

AND THERE IS—BETH...
I—I DON'T BELIEVE IT YET! HOW COULD YOU?
IT WAS HARD! TERRIBLY HARD! I'VE BEEN TRYING FOR MONTHS! IT'S SO— (SHUDDER) COLD AND DAMP OUT THERE!

YOU KNOW I DETEST HOT MILK, SWEETHEART! I ALWAYS HAD A CUP OF TEA BEFORE BED! PLEASE?
HUH! OH, YES! TEA! OF COURSE— BETH! I—I'LL GET IT RIGHT AWAY!

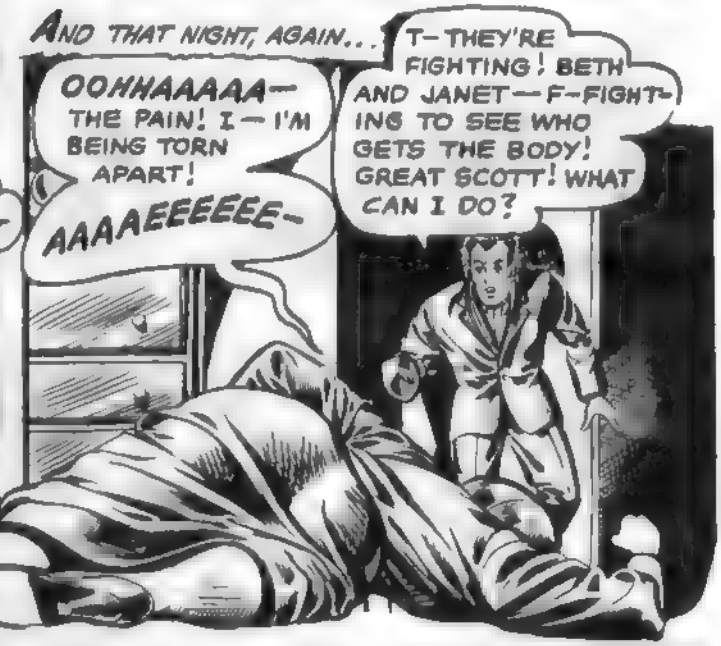
AND AFTERWARD...
GREAT SCOTT! IT'S REALLY BETH! BUT WHERE IS JANET, THEN? AND WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? WHAT CAN I TELL PEOPLE? WHO WOULD BELIEVE ME IF I TOLD THE TRUTH?

SO ALL THAT LONG AND LONELY NIGHT..
I'LL GO MAD! ALL MY FRIENDS KNEW BETH—AND JANET! THEY THINK BETH IS DEAD! AND NOW— NOW THEY MIGHT EVEN THINK I'VE MURDERED JANET! I'VE SIMPLY GOT TO KEEP HER OUT OF SIGHT UNTIL I CAN THINK OF A WAY...

BUT NEXT MORNING...
GOOD MORNING, DARLING! BE AN ANGEL AND BRING ME SOME HOT MILK!
HOT MILK! BUT—JANET! JANET, DARLING, YOU...

WHO DID YOU EXPECT, SWEETHEART? IS ANYTHING WRONG? YOU LOOK SO STRANGE!
N—NO! THAT IS, I—NO, EVERYTHING IS FINE! I'LL GET YOUR MILK!

I HAD THE FUNNIEST DREAM, DICK! SORT OF SCARY! SOMEONE WAS TRYING TO STEAL MY BODY!
YES, FUNNY! HAH—HAH!
SO THAT'S IT! BETH CAN ONLY APPEAR AT NIGHT! AND JANET DOESN'T KNOW!


AND THAT NIGHT, AGAIN...
OOHHAAAAA— THE PAIN! I—I'M BEING TORN APART!
AAAAEEEEEE—
T—THEY'RE FIGHTING! BETH AND JANET—F—FIGHTING TO SEE WHO GETS THE BODY! GREAT SCOTT! WHAT CAN I DO?

BUT IN THE DARKNESS, THE SPIRIT OF BETH IS THE STRONGER.
HURRY AND GET DRESSED, DARLING! YOU KNOW I LIKE TO GO DANCING! HURRY, NOW! WE'LL HAVE A WONDERFUL TIME!
Y—YES—BETH!

POOR DEAR! IT MUST BE CONFUSING FOR YOU! BUT I'M BACK TO STAY, YOU KNOW! I'LL BE WITH YOU EVERY NIGHT FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES! SHE—THAT CREATURE—CAN ONLY HAVE YOU IN THE DAY TIME!
I CAN'T LIVE LIKE THIS! I'LL GO INSANE! I NEED HELP!

THE NEXT DAY, FARSON GOES TO AN EXPERT IN SUCH MATTERS... HASTILY HE POURED OUT HIS TALE OF TORTURE TO FRIENDLY UNDER STANDING EARS...
I SEE NO HOPE IN EXORCISING THIS SUCCUMBUS, MR. FARSON! SHE IS VERY STRONG! BUT YOU TELL ME YOU ARE EMPLOYED BY THE WEATHER BUREAU — AND THAT MIGHT BE A PARTIAL SOLUTION!
HUH! SURE, I'M A METEOROLOGIST, BUT WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH IT?
BUT HE TAKES THE ADVICE, AND...
SURE, FARSON, WE'VE GOT AN OPENING THERE! BUT NOBODY IN HIS RIGHT MIND WANTS THAT STATION! WHY...
I CAN'T EXPLAIN! BUT PLEASE — PLEASE — TRANSFER ME! IMMEDIATELY!
SO...
BUT DARLING, WHY ALL THE RUSH? THERE MUST BE SOMEONE ELSE THEY COULD SEND! SOMEONE WHO ISN'T MARRIED...
HAH — THAT'S JUST THE POINT! HURRY, GET ABOARD!
BUT, DARLING, WHY IN THE WORLD DID YOU LET THEM SEND YOU HERE?
I CAN'T EXPLAIN NOW! MAYBE SOMEDAY...
AND AT LAST...
OOOO, IT'S SO COLD! I WANT TO GET INSIDE BEFORE I FREEZE TO DEATH!
RUN ALONG! I'LL SEE YOU LATER!
I'M GRATEFUL, FARSON, BECAUSE YOU'RE RELIEVING ME! BUT WHY ON EARTH DID YOU ASK FOR A STATION WHERE THE DAYS AND NIGHTS ARE SIX MONTHS LONG?
I HAD A GOOD REASON! ONE I'LL NEVER TELL YOU!
YOU WOULD NEVER UNDERSTAND WHY I HAD TO BE WHERE THE DAYS AND NIGHTS ARE SIX MONTHS LONG!
SO WE LEAVE RICHARD FARSON, SURELY THE STRANGEST BIGAMIST OF ALL TIME... A VICTIM OF TWO LOVES, TWO WOMEN... ONE OF THEM DEAD.
The End

OUR GREEN-EYED PRINCESS OF DUMBRILLE!

THE MAID DORINA WAS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AND FRAGILE PRINCESS THE SMALL KINGDOM OF DUMBRILLE HAD EVER KNOWN...

AND YET THAT SMALL KINGDOM WAS THE TARGET OF A PLOTTED INTRIGUE...

GRUNE CONTINUES TO PRETEND HE ASSISTS THE PRINCESS IN HER DUTIES...

INNOCENTLY DORINA IS GRATEFUL FOR WHAT SHE CONSIDERS JUDGMENT AND KINDNESS...

SOON CEDRIC BEGINS PRACTICING.
I MUST BE GRUNE! IN ALL THINGS— I MUST WALK LIKE HIM, TALK LIKE HIM AND OH PAIN OF PAINS, BE ACCEPTED AS HE!

MY DEAREST PRINCESS, I AM YOUR HUMBLE SLAVE AND AS SO WOULD PERFORM THE TRYING DUTIES THAT PRESS UPON YOU FROM THE FUNCTIONS OF COURT...
I AM GETTING IT! SOON I SHALL BE MORE GRUNE THAN CEDRIC!

A FEW NIGHTS LATER CEDRIC SEEKS TO TEST HIS DISGUISE...
NOW FOR IT! IF I CAN FOOL THE GUARDS I CAN CERTAINLY DECEIVE PRINCESS DORINA! IF I COULD ONLY IMITATE THE JESTER'S CROOKED SHUFFLE!

WHO GOES IN THE SHADOWS?
HAH-HAH—CAN'T YOU SEE IT IS ONLY THE FOOL! PERHAPS THE PRINCESS HAS EXILED HIM!
HEH-HEH—YOU ARE WRONG, GOOD SOLDIER! GRUNE COMES ONLY FOR A BREATH OF THIS PURE NIGHT AIR!

HO-HO—AIR HE SAYS! HE WANTS AIR— SO HE MAY FIGURE TO-MORROW'S PLANS FOR THE TREASURY, EH?
DO NOT FORGET US WHEN YOU RULE, SIR GRUNE!
YOU ARE A FORTUNATE ONE!
HAVE YOUR JEST, MY FRIENDS! BUT I MUST LEAVE YOU NOW!

IT WORKS! THEY THOUGHT I WAS REALLY GRUNE, SO LONG AS THEY COULD NOT SEE MY FACE CLEARLY! AND MY DEAREST PRINCESS IS BLIND, SO SHE'LL NOT KNOW...

ONE FOGGY NIGHT A WEEK LATER...
GRUNE? IS THAT YOU, MY FRIEND? YOU ARE PLAYING A GAME TO TEASE ME, LURKING THERE IN THE SHADOW?

GRUNE! PLEASE PLAY YOUR GAME NO MORE! I KNOW YOUR STEP!
I DO NOT WISH TO PROVOKE YOU, DEAR PRINCESS — I WANTED ONLY TO DISCOVER IF YOU WERE IN A MOOD TO TALK OF COURT AFFAIRS...

HOW KIND YOU ARE, GRUNE... I AM ALWAYS PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE BUSINESS OF MY KINGDOM WITH YOU, DEAR FRIEND.
I AM UNWORTHY OF SUCH TRUST, MILADY... DO YOU NEVER SUSPECT GRUNE OF PLOTTING IN HIS OWN FAVOR?

NEVER, DEAR GRUNE. AND I SEAL MY TRUST TO PROVE IT TO YOU...
DEAR DORINDA...
HOW MY HEART POUNDS AT HER SWEET TOUCH, BUT I DARE NOT REVEAL MYSELF YET...

YOU ARE TROUBLED, GRUNE? YOUR FACE IS TENSE!
I WISH A TRANSFER, DEAR LADY... FOR REASONS OF MY HEALTH... I WISH TO CROSS THE SEA AND REST... WITH YOUR PERMISSION...

HOW COULD I DENY YOU ANYTHING, GRUNE? I SHALL MISS YOU DEEPLY, BUT I SHALL ARRANGE FOR YOUR DEPARTURE IMMEDIATELY!
GOOD! AND FROM THIS NIGHT ON COUSIN CEDRIC SHALL PROTECT AND GUARD YOU CEASELESSLY! I HAVE HIS VOW TO IT!

THE AMBITIONS OF GRUNE ARE REVEALED TO HER ROYAL MAJESTY...

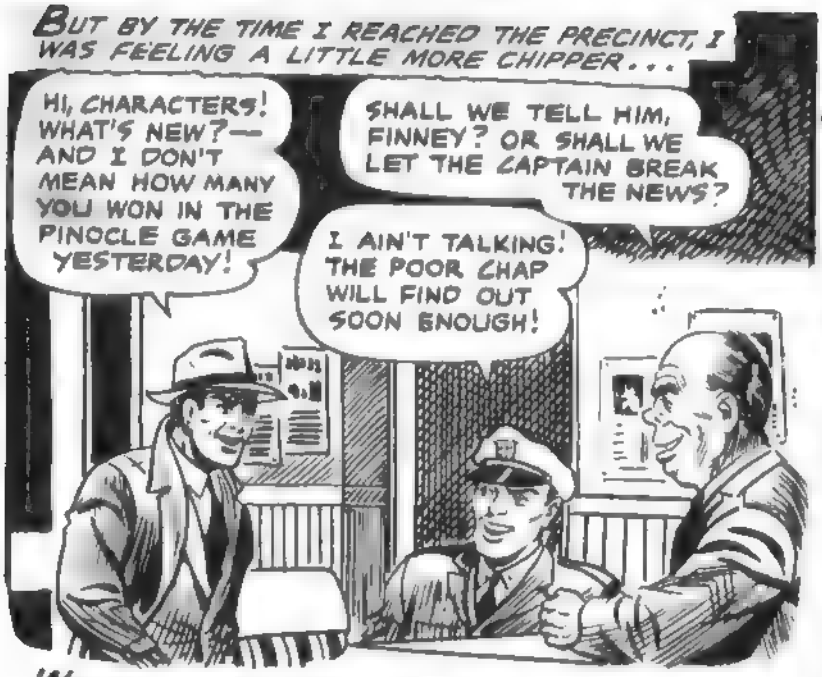
TIME SEEMS TO SWIRL PAST AND THE SADDENED KINGDOM SEEMED UNIMPORTANT FOR THE MOMENT, FOR THE BANISHED GRUNE WAS SUDDENLY A CHANGED MAN...
I MEANT NO HARM TO THE PITIFUL GIRL OR EVEN TO THAT FOOLISH CEDRIC AND NOW I CANNOT THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE... HOW AM I FIT TO RULE NOW?
UNHAPPY GRUNE, HOW DESPERATELY HE SEEKS ESCAPE IN SLUMBER, BUT...
HUH! WHO—WHAT ARE YOU?
HAH—HAH—I AM CEDRIC, MY FELLOW I HAVE COME TO WATCH YOU RULE!
BUT YOU ARE NOT REAL, CEDRIC! OH, SOMEONE HELP ME...
NO ONE IN THIS WORLD CAN HELP YOU NOW! AND YOU DO NEED HELP!
YOU ARE RIGHT, SIR CEDRIC! NO ONE IN THE WORLD CAN HELP THIS WRETCHED MAN... NO ONE BUT DORINA... I WILL HELP HIM...
D-DORINA! OH, NO... I AM DREAMING!
A NIGHT DREAM, YES... BUT IT IS YOUR DAY DREAMS THAT BEAR PONDERING, GRUNE... IF YOU WISH MY KINGDOM I SHALL GIVE IT TO YOU AS A GIFT!
IS THIS WISE, MY PRINCESS?
P-PLEASE DEAR DORINA... I FEAR YOU... STOP HER, CEDRIC!
WISE, GENTLE CEDRIC? POOR GRUNE HAS NOT A FRIEND IN THE KINGDOM OF DUMBRILLE... HIS LONELINESS IS TO BE PITIED... AND AIDED BY US!

AS THE SHADOWS MELT AWAY, GRUNE AWAKENS IN ANXIOUS REPENTENCE...

AND AS THE SLEEPY GUARDS PREPARE TO QUIT THEIR POSTS...

YOU COULD SAY I'M REAL GONE – BUT THE FACT REMAINS THIS IS ON RECORD! I HAD THE EXPERIENCE TO END ALL! I WAS A DETECTIVE AND NOT A ROOKIE, EITHER, WHO HAD A CASE NO ONE TOLD ME ABOUT AT THE POLICE ACADEMY! IF YOU'D LIKE THE ACTUAL DETAILS YOU CAN READ THEM BELOW! DON'T ASK ME HOW OR WHY IT HAPPENED... FOR ALL I KNOW MAYBE THERE WAS

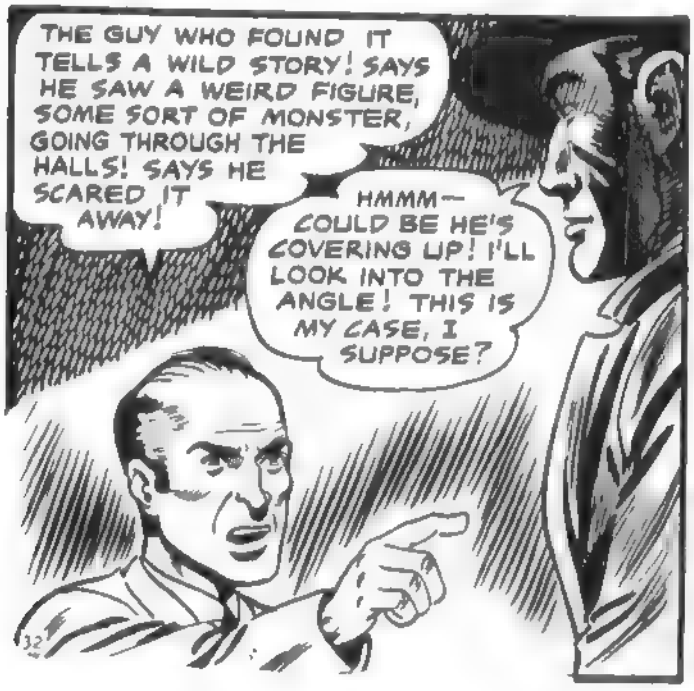
A HOLE in the SKY!


BUT BY THE TIME I REACHED THE PRECINCT, I WAS FEELING A LITTLE MORE CHIPPER...
HI, CHARACTERS! WHAT'S NEW?— AND I DON'T MEAN HOW MANY YOU WON IN THE PINOCLE GAME YESTERDAY!
SHALL WE TELL HIM, FINNEY? OR SHALL WE LET THE CAPTAIN BREAK THE NEWS?
I AIN'T TALKING! THE POOR CHAP WILL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH!

JUST THEN THE CAPTAIN CALLED ME...
MORNING, PAUL! I HAVE TO SEE YOU—RIGHT NOW!
SURE, CAPTAIN! WHAT'S ALL THE BIG MYSTERY THIS MORNING?

WE WENT TO THE BACK ROOM...
SEE THIS, PAUL! IT'S A PILE OF SAND... I JUST GOT IT BACK FROM THE LAB... THEY TELL ME IT'S NINETY-NINE PER-CENT CARBON.
VERY INTERESTING, CAP, BUT I DON'T FOLLOW!

I'VE BEEN A COP FOR TEN YEARS! BUT I'VE NEVER HEARD ANYTHING LIKE THIS...
I MEAN IT LOOKS LIKE SAND, THAT'S ALL. WHAT'S THE PITCH?
WAIT UNTIL YOU HEAR THE REST OF IT! THIS SAND WAS FOUND ON THE NINETEENTH FLOOR OF THE SCHRIBER BUILDING...


THE GUY WHO FOUND IT TELLS A WILD STORY! SAYS HE SAW A WEIRD FIGURE, SOME SORT OF MONSTER, GOING THROUGH THE HALLS! SAYS HE SCARED IT AWAY!
HMMM— COULD BE HE'S COVERING UP! I'LL LOOK INTO THE ANGLE! THIS IS MY CASE, I SUPPOSE?

IT SURE WAS MY CASE! IT TOOK ME ALL DAY TO TRACE DOWN THE CHARACTER WHO'D FOUND THE SAND—BUT HE COULDN'T HELP ANY. IT WAS AFTER DARK WHEN I FINALLY REACHED THE SCHRIBER BUILDING...
I DON'T BUY THE MONSTER THEORY AT ALL! LOOKS LIKE A TOUGH ONE, ALL RIGHT! A BIG OFFICE BUILDING WITH A COUPLE OF THOUSAND PEOPLE WORKING IN IT...

PEOPLE DON'T WORK LATE IN OUR TOWN! THE BUILDING WAS DARK AND FULL OF ECHOES! THEN I HEARD THE RATTLE...
GOOD GRIEF! SOUNDS LIKE SOMEBODY WITH IRON SHOES COMING FROM THE SECOND FLOOR, I THINK!

I REACHED THE SECOND FLOOR CORRIDOR —AND THERE IT WAS! FANTASTIC, INCREDIBLE, BUT THERE IT WAS! A QUEER SOMETHING OUT OF NOWHERE...
GREAT SCOTT! WHAT IS THAT THING? GOT TO STOP IT!

THE THING PAUSED AND TURNED ON ME...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE, BUT THESE .45 SLUGS OUGHT TO TAKE CARE OF YOU! THEY'D STOP AN ELEPHANT!
I'D NEVER BEEN SO WRONG! THE SLUGS HAD NO MORE EFFECT ON IT THAN BB SHOTS! I STARTED TO TREMBLE...
I—I CAN'T STOP IT! BULLETS SEEM TO GO RIGHT THROUGH IT! T—THIS THING IS FANTASTIC!

IT CAME CLOSER AND MY GUN JUST DROPPED OUT OF MY NERVELESS HAND. OH, BROTHER, IF THE FELLOWS AT THE PRECINCT SAW ME THERE! I JUST GAVE A MOAN AND SLIPPED TO THE FLOOR...
I GUESS I FAINTED, AND IF I DID, WHEN I OPENED MY EYES AND SAW THAT FACE, I FAINTED AGAIN..
WHEN I CAME OUT OF IT, TWO OF THE BOYS WERE KNEELING BESIDE ME...
WHAT WAS IT, LIEUTENANT? WE JUST GOT A GLIMPSE!
YOU'RE LUCKY, THEN! IT WAS SOMETHING OUT OF A BOOK!
YOU'D BETTER SEE THE DOC!

I WAS IN FAIR SHAPE, PHYSICALLY! BUT WHEN I TRIED TO TELL THEM WHAT I'D SEEN, THEY THOUGHT I WAS A CANDIDATE FOR THE LAUGHING ACADEMY...
BUT I TELL YOU I'M NOT OFF MY ROCKER! I REALLY SAW THAT THING!
HMMM— HE'S HAD A TERRIBLE SHOCK!
I DON'T GET IT, PAUL! YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A LEVEL HEADED COP! AND THERE'S JUST ENOUGH BACKING TO YOUR STORY! THE ORIGINAL WITNESS, FOR INSTANCE...
THAT'S JUST IT! THE MEN WHO FOUND THE SAND ALSO SAW THE MONSTER! EVEN THE COPS WHO SAVED ME SAW SOMETHING — EVEN IF THEY DIDN'T GET A GOOD LOOK! I TELL YOU IT EXISTS!
THE PHONE RANG AND THE CAPTAIN PICKED IT UP! AFTER THAT ALL THE TALKING WAS OVER...
BETTER SEND THE RIOT SQUAD, SIR! THAT THING, WHATEVER IT IS, HAS APPEARED AGAIN!—
WHAT? THE MONSTER AGAIN? SEEN BY A JANITOR THIS TIME — AND YOU SAW IT YOURSELF! OKAY, WE'LL BE RIGHT THERE!
I COULD SEE HE WAS CONVINCED NOW! A MINUTE AGO I'D BEEN ON MY WAY TO THE YO-YO ACADEMY— NOW I WAS BACK ON THE CASE...
OKAY, PAUL, I GUESS IT'S A MONSTER! GET WITH IT! GO WITH THE RIOT SQUAD! I'LL FOLLOW ALONG WITH THE COMMISSIONER! THIS I WANT HIM TO SEE!
I'M ON MY WAY!
SO, WITH SIRENS SCREAMING, WE WENT BACK TO THE SCHRIBER BUILDING...
WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT, LIEUTENANT? WE BEEN HEARING RUMORS ABOUT A MONSTER — OR SOMETHING!
I HOPE YOU NEVER FIND OUT, MORTON! NOT IF YOU EVER WANT TO SLEEP WELL AGAIN! NOW STEP ON IT!
PROWL CARS WERE CLOTTED AROUND THE ENTRANCE TO THE BUILDING! MEN BOILED ALL OVER THE PLACE! I BROKE FOR THE ENTRANCE THE SECOND WE SKIDDED TO A HALT...
WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S UP? THIS WAS A SIGNAL 32!
COME ON! AND HAVE YOUR GUNS READY! THIS THING IS FOR REAL!
4N 33

WE ALL HEARD THE RATTLING AS WE POUNDED INTO THE BUILDING AND UP THE STAIRS...
COMING FROM UPSTAIRS, LIEUTENANT! GOSH— LISTEN TO IT!
YEAH! EACH ONE OF YOU MEN TAKE A CORRIDOR! AND BE ALERT!
I ROUNDED A CORNER AND THERE IT WAS AGAIN! AND THIS TIME IT HAD ONE OF MY BOYS...
EASY, MORGAN... WE RE HERE!
Y!!!!!!—
THE MONSTER TURNED QUICKLY ASIDE AND FACED US... ESPECIALLY ME...
WANTS ME AGAIN! AND I DON'T FEEL FRIENDLY!
MY BULLETS COULDN'T HARM IT! BUT FOR SOME REASON IT TURNED AWAY FROM ME! AND BEGAN TO RETREAT...
IT'S RUNNING! ACTUALLY RUNNING AWAY FROM ME! I DON'T GET IT!
THEN I GOT ANOTHER SURPRISE! AS HEAVY AND UNWIELDY AS IT LOOKED, THAT THING COULD RUN LIKE A DEER! I FOLLOWED, BUT COULDN'T KEEP UP WITH IT...
GETTING AWAY! BUT IT'S GOING UP— NO WAY OUT OF THE BUILDING THAT WAY!
STAIRS
CAUTIOUSLY I WENT UP THE DARK STAIR! I COULD HEAR IT CLUMPING UP AHEAD OF ME...
I'M PROBABLY A FOOL FOR TRYING TO FOLLOW THIS THING ALONE, BUT I WANT TO GET THAT MONSTER MYSELF IF I CAN!
SUDDENLY I SAW IT AGAIN, LOOMING AT THE END OF THE CORRIDOR! AND NOW IT SEEMED TO BE AT BAY, WAITING THERE FOR ME...
LOOKS LIKE IT WANTS TO HAVE A SHOWDOWN! OR MAYBE MY BULLETS HAVE BEEN HURTING IT ALL ALONG! THAT MUST BE IT— THE WOUNDS ARE FINALLY CATCHING UP WITH IT!

SUDDENLY I FELT OPTOMISTIC! THE THING LOOKED STRANGELY HARMLESS...
FUNNY! IT'S NOT MAKING A MOVE NOW! MAYBE I'VE GOT IT!

THEN SUDDENLY THE THING WENT CRASHING DOWN TO THE FLOOR...
THERE, YOU FILTHY CHARACTER, WHATEVER YOU ARE! YOU'LL NEVER TERRIFY ANYBODY ELSE!

THEN I GOT A SHOCK! THE THING WAS NOTHING — JUST AN EMPTY SHELL, AN ARMORED COSTUME OF SOME KIND THAT HAD COLLAPSED UNDER THE IMPACT OF MY BULLETS...
H-HUH? NOTHING TO IT! BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SOMETHING IN IT — MAYBE ONLY A PRACTICAL JOKE AFTER ALL!

I HEARD THE SOUND BEHIND ME THEN! A VOICE — LIKE NOTHING I'D EVER HEARD BEFORE...
BEHIND ME! THAT SOUND — BECKONING — AND I FEEL — SO — STRANGE! CAN'T M-MOVE —

I MANAGED TO TURN, THEN I STOPPED! WHAT I SAW WAS FANTASTIC! AND I WAS UNABLE TO MOVE... IT HAD TURNED SOME SORT OF RAY ON ME THAT LEFT ME POWERLESS...
ETNAX PURTTSER COMANE ELIXERT!
I CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT IT SAYS! FUNNY! IT'S WARNING ME NOT TO BE AFRAID!

I WAS STILL UNABLE TO MOVE AS IT TURNED AWAY! AND I COULD UNDERSTAND ITS THOUGHTS, NOT THE LANGUAGE ITSELF. SOMEHOW IT HAD THE POWER OF GETTING THROUGH TO ME...
IT'S SAYING IT COMES FROM A FAR PLACE — FROM OUT T-THERE! AND NOW IT IS RETURNING TO REPORT!
REMELI NARRI BLOPPPEEEXX — ELCOT ZIVI!

SUDDENLY I FELT THE PARALYSIS WEAR OFF! I COULD MOVE AGAIN! AND SOMEHOW I KNEW THAT NOW THE CREATURE WANTED ME TO FOLLOW IT...

VIR GENZI TOR MAXT! TUTEO B-AK!

TELLING ME NOT TO USE MY GUN — THAT I COULDN'T USE IT ANYWAY! AND NOW IT'S GOING TO SHOW ME SOMETHING!

I FOLLOWED, ALMOST ON INSTINCT, AND HEARD THE LANGUAGE OF THE CREATURE IN MY BRAIN! IT WAS SCOLDING ME NOW — CALLING ME A FOOL...

WUZU HAH? NEC TIR BAKERTO? HAH — HAH — HAH — HAH — HAH — HAH!

SAYS FOR ME TO WATCH CLOSELY NOW! IT'S GOING TO CHANGE FORM AGAIN! SHOWING ME HOW THEY DO THINGS OUT THERE!

I WENT UP THE TV TOWER AFTER IT! I DIDN'T REALLY WANT TO, BECAUSE I WAS SCARED STIFF, BUT IT WAS PULLING ME ALONG AFTER IT...

SAYING THAT IT'S SORRY IT SCARED THE HUMANS, BUT THEY ATTACKED HIM, TRIED TO KEEP HIM FROM CARRYING OUT HIS MISSION!

IT REACHED THE TOP OF THE TV TOWER AND STOPPED, STARING DOWN AT ME! AND THEN IT STARTED GABBLING AT ME AGAIN...

WIX LU! TIMOR MORTIS BIX LAMINA! WURRA EST SAPIO KENTX!

THE HUMAN RACE IS FOOLISH, IT SAYS! ONLY OUTSIDE INTERVENTION, FROM OUT WHERE IT COMES FROM, CAN SAVE US!

SUDDENLY IT WHIRLED OUT AND AWAY FROM THE TOWER! FOR A MOMENT IT HUNG SUSPENDED IN MID-AIR, GLOWING WITH A STRANGE, BLUISH LIGHT, STILL TALKING TO ME...

REBUSX NAIRE PAET UKA ESTE — MAX — UUPPPPT!

IT'S GOING TO TELL "THEM" — "OUT THERE" — IT MIGHT NOT BE WORTH IT!

IT CHANGED, THEN, AND WENT WHIRLING OFF INTO SPACE, TRAILING LIGHT BEHIND IT! AND AT LAST I UNDERSTOOD...

A FLYING SAUCER! THAT THING HAS CHANGED ITSELF INTO A FLYING SAUCER!

AND THAT'S THE STORY! MAYBE IT WILL COME BACK AND BRING OTHERS WITH IT, MAYBE IT WON'T! MAYBE THEY, OUT THERE, WILL LEAVE US TO WORK OUT OUR OWN DESTINY! I WONDER! WISH I COULD CONTACT HIM AGAIN AND TRY TO STRIKE UP A FRIENDSHIP!

The End

SOMEWHERE IN THE SOUTH SEAS, LYING CONCEALED, LIKE A BEAST WAITING TO STRIKE, WAS THE ISLAND! THE YEAR ROUND IT WAS DRENCHED IN A YELLOW SHROUD OF FOG, A STEAMING MIASMA COILED AROUND THE ROTTING VEGETATION LIKE A GREAT SERPENT! MEN WHISPERED OF THIS ISLAND, AND AVOIDED IT, BECAUSE THE TALES TOLD OF IT WERE ENOUGH TO CHILL EVEN BLOOD THINNED BY THE TROPICS! BECAUSE FROM THIS DREAD SHORE NO MAN HAD EVER RETURNED! IT WAS INDEED THE ISLE OF LOST MEN...

TORTURE Garden

FIRST MEET ANTHONY POINDEXTER, SOLDIER OF FORTUNE, WHO ONE DAY HAD VANISHED COMPLETELY! THAT WAS TEN YEARS AGO, AND NO MAN IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD HAS SEEN HIM SINCE...

NOW, TEN YEARS LATER, TWO MEN ARE LOST IN A PLANE SOMEWHERE OVER THE VAST REACHES OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC...

ANGUS! EITHER I'M NUTS, OR THAT'S AN ISLAND DOWN THERE!

YOU'RE RIGHT, LADDIE! BUT I DINNA KEN SUCH AN ISLAND ON THE MAPS!

THE MEN ARE LANKY ANGUS McCABE AND MIKE DOLAN, DEALERS IN PEARLS AND COPRA, WHO WERE ISLAND HOPPING WHEN THEIR PLANE DEVELOPED ENGINE TROUBLE...
HURRY, ANGUS, BEFORE THE MISTS CLOSE IN AGAIN! SET HER DOWN ON THAT STRIP OF BEACH!
AYE, MAN! I SEE IT!

WHEW! DON'T KNOW WHERE THIS ISLAND CAME FROM, BUT IT SURE SAVED OUR NECKS!
AYE! A MOMENT NOW AND I'LL PUT HER DOWN AS GENTLY AS A BABY!

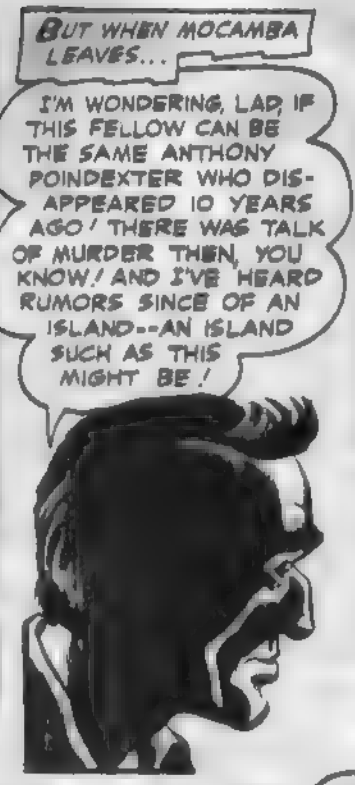
BUT A JAGGED BIT OF DRIFTWOOD, HALF CONCEALED IN THE SAND, TRIPS THE PLANE...
YIIIIIIIII!
GAAAA! C-CRACKING UP!

NEARBY TWO PAIRS OF SHARP EYES WATCH THE CRASH...
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT COMPANY, MOCAMBO! BETTER GO SEE IF THEY'RE STILL ALIVE!
YES, TUAN! I HOPE THEY LIVE! THERE IS NO SPORT TO BE HAD WITH THE DEAD!

SO...
THEY LIVE, TUAN! WE TAKE TO THE HOUSE?
OF COURSE! WE MUST FIX THEM UP! AS YOU SAY, THERE IS NO--CHUCKLE--SPORT TO BE HAD FROM THE DEAD, OR EVEN THE CRIPPLED!

IT IS LONG SINCE WE HAD VISITORS, TUAN! ALL MEN AVOID THIS PLACE NOW!
HEH-HEH! NOT VERY COMPLIMENTARY, IS IT, MOCAMBA! BUT THESE TWO, IF THEY LIVE, WILL FURNISH US A LITTLE FUN!

A WEEK LATER AND ANGUS McCABE AND MIKE DOLAN ARE RECOVERED FROM THEIR INJURIES...
SEEMS TO ME, LAD, THAT WE'VE BLUNDERED INTO SOMETHING MYSTERIOUS! POINDEXTER IS A QUEER DUCK! AND THIS ISLAND--
YEAH! I BEEN THINKING THE SAME THING! WATCH IT--HERE COMES THE SERVANT!

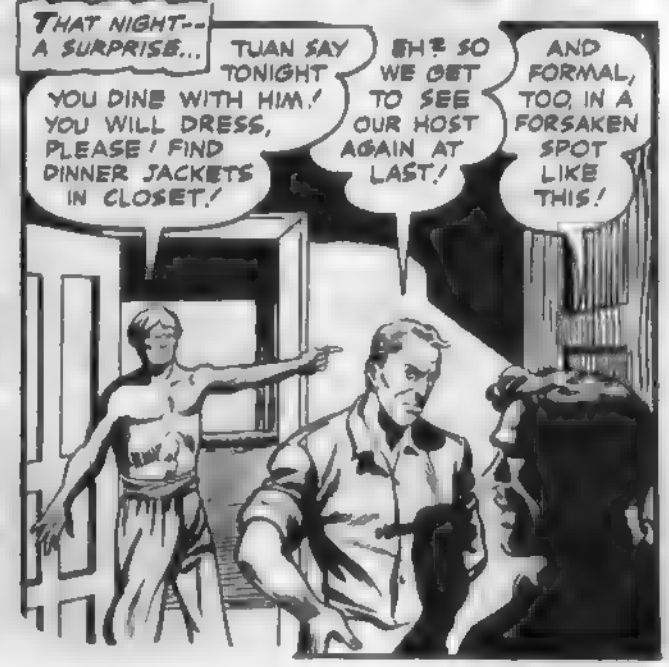

BUT WHEN MOCAMBA LEAVES...
I'M WONDERING, LAD, IF THIS FELLOW CAN BE THE SAME ANTHONY POINDEXTER WHO DISAPPEARED 10 YEARS AGO! THERE WAS TALK OF MURDER THEN, YOU KNOW! AND I'VE HEARD RUMORS SINCE OF AN ISLAND--AN ISLAND SUCH AS THIS MIGHT BE!

I'VE HEARD THOSE RUMORS! BAR TALK, MOSTLY, I ALWAYS THOUGHT! BUT A LOT OF MEN HAVE STARTED TO LOOK FOR THE ISLAND--AND NONE OF THEM EVER CAME BACK!

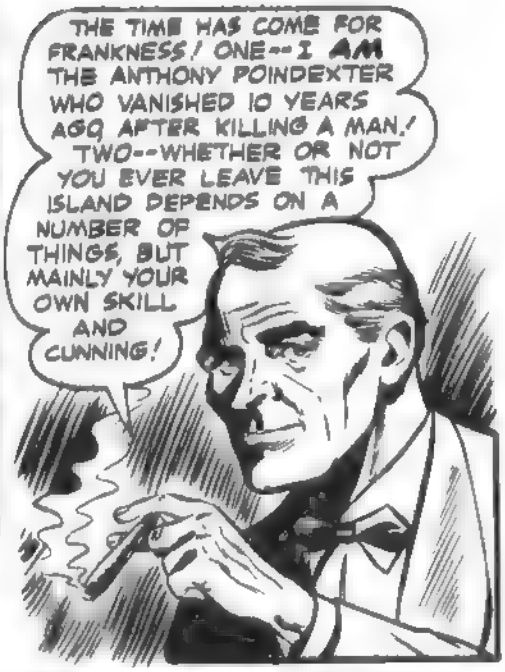
LATER...
GUESTS GROW UNEASY, TUAN! THEY MUCH PUZZLED ABOUT THIS PLACE!
GOOD! I'VE PURPOSELY STAYED OUT OF SIGHT TO MAKE THEM WONDER! WE WANT THEIR NERVES KEYED UP FOR OUR LITTLE GAME, EH, MOCAMBA?

NEXT DAY...
YOU KNOW, ANGUS, I DON'T LIKE THIS MORE AND MORE! WE'VE ONLY SEEN THIS POINDEXTER CHARACTER ONCE, AND THERE'S NOTHING TO BE GOT OUT OF THE NATIVE! I DON'T LIKE IT!
DINNA GET UPSET, LAD! MAYBE THE MAN IS A HERMIT SORT! NO DOUBT HE'LL LEND US A BOAT ONE DAY AND SAY GOODBYE!

WE'LL NEED A BOAT THAT'S FOR SURE! NEVER BE ABLE TO PATCH THAT CRATE UP!
AYE! IT'S MAROONED WE ARE UNLESS POINDEXTER HELPS US! BUT HE MUST HAVE A CRAFT OF SOME KIND!


THAT NIGHT--A SURPRISE...
TUAN SAY TONIGHT YOU DINE WITH HIM! YOU WILL DRESS, PLEASE! FIND DINNER JACKETS IN CLOSET!
EH? SO WE GET TO SEE OUR HOST AGAIN AT LAST!
AND FORMAL, TOO, IN A FORSAKEN SPOT LIKE THIS!

LATER AT DINNER...
WELL, GENTLEMEN, I SUPPOSE YOU'VE BEEN WONDERING -- ABOUT ME AND THIS ISLAND!
I DINNA DENY IT, SIR! IT'S ALL VERRA STRANGE!
MORE TO THE POINT, MR. POINDEXTER--WE WANT TO GO HOME! WE'VE GOT OUR BUSINESS TO LOOK AFTER! NOW IF YOU'LL JUST LEND US A BOAT--


THE TIME HAS COME FOR FRANKNESS! ONE--I AM THE ANTHONY POINDEXTER WHO VANISHED 10 YEARS AGO, AFTER KILLING A MAN! TWO--WHETHER OR NOT YOU EVER LEAVE THIS ISLAND DEPENDS ON A NUMBER OF THINGS, BUT MAINLY YOUR OWN SKILL AND CUNNING!

YOU MEAN WE'RE PRISONERS?
YEAH--SUPPOSE YOU EXPLAIN ALL THIS MONKEY BUSINESS!
ALL IN GOOD TIME, GENTLEMEN! BUT FIRST I WANT TO SHOW YOU-- MY TROPHY ROOM!

AND...
HUNTING HAS ALWAYS BEEN A GRAND PASSION OF MINE--AS YOU CAN SEE! I'VE HUNTED-- EVERYTHING!
TO GET BACK TO US--WHAT'S ALL THIS DOUBLE TALK! WHAT'S OUR SKILL AND CUNNING GOT TO DO WITH LEAVING THIS ISLAND?

EVEN THE MOST CUNNING OF ANIMALS, GENTLEMEN, IS NO MATCH FOR MAN! SO, LONG AGO, I GREW BORED WITH HUNTING MERE BEASTS! I LEAVE THE REST TO YOUR IMAGINATION! GOODNIGHT!
H-HUH? YOU MEAN--
AYE, LAD! I'M AFRAID THAT'S WHAT HE DOES MEAN!

LEFT ALONE, THEY MAKE A DISCOVERY...
AS I THOUGHT! GUNS, YES, BUT NOT ONE ROUND OF AMMUNITION! WE MIGHT AS WELL FACE IT, LAD!
I KNOW! WE'RE TRAPPED! POINDEXTER IS AS CRAZY AS THEY COME--AND SOMEHOW HE MEANS TO--HUNT US!

SOON THE TWO MEN FIND THAT THEIR STRANGE HOST IS NOT JOKING, OR, IF HE IS, IT IS A GRIM JOKE...

YOU STAY IN HERE, TONIGHT! TUAN'S ORDERS!

HOOT, LOOKS LIKE THE HOSPITALITY IS ALL GONE! THIS CELL--

OF ALL THE BLASTED-- WAIT TILL I SEE THAT NUT! I'LL--

YE'LL DO NOTHING RASH, MY LAD! I TELL YOU THIS IS SERIOUS! WE'RE IN REAL TROUBLE! I DINNA DOUBT FOR A MOMENT THAT POINDEXTER IS AS MAD AS A HATTER!

MAYBE! BUT WHAT'S HE UP TO? WHAT'S ALL THIS STUFF ABOUT HUNTING, AND MAYBE WE GET OFF THE ISLAND AND MAYBE WE DON'T?

WHEN MORNING COMES---

TUAN READY NOW! SAY YOU HURRY!

OKAY--OKAY! GO EASY WITH THAT GUN!

NOW WE FIND OUT WHAT HIS GAME IS! AND IF IT'S WHAT I THINK IT IS-- WE WON'T LIKE IT!

AND IT IS...

HERE! A KNIFE FOR EACH OF YOU! AND DON'T TRY TO USE THEM ON ME-- YET! MOCAMBA WILL KILL YOU!

HMMM--SO WE **DO** GET A KNIFE!

HUH! WHAT FOR?

YOU, GENTLEMEN, ARE THE QUARRY TODAY! I SHALL HUNT YOU DOWN JUST AS I WOULD A WILD ANIMAL, ONLY I HOPE YOU ARE INTELLIGENT ENOUGH TO GIVE ME BETTER SPORT! IF YOU LIVE, EITHER OF YOU, FOR 24 HOURS, I WILL SEND YOU BACK TO CIVILIZATION! **AND** GIVE YOU **50,000 DOLLARS!**

AND MOCAMBA OPENS FIRE...

YOU GO NOW OR I KILL!

C'MON, ANGUS! RUN!

YES! INTO THE JUNGLE!

GOODBYE, GENTLEMAN! I'LL GIVE YOU ONE HOUR'S START!

THE DIRTY BUZZARD REALLY MEANS IT, ANGUS! HE'S GOING TO HUNT US DOWN!

HE DOES THAT! WE'D BETTER--PUFF--REST SOON AND DO SOME THINKING! THESE KNIVES AREN'T MUCH GOOD AGAINST GUNS!

WITH PRECIOUS TIME LEAKING AWAY THEY HOLD A COUNCIL OF WAR...
I'M OF A MIND THAT WE MUST SEPERATE, LAD! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE! MAYBE ONE OF US CAN MAKE IT!
YEAH--I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT! BUT WE'RE AS GOOD AS DEAD RIGHT NOW! THAT CRAZY MAN KNOWS THE ISLAND LIKE THE PALM OF HIS HAND! AND HE'S GOT A GUN!

AND...
S'LONG, ANGUS! I HOPE YOU MAKE IT! AND IF YOU DON'T, OR I DON'T-- YOU BEEN A SWELL FRIEND!
AYE, LAD, AND SO HAVE YOU! LOOK ALIVE NOW-- AND MAYBE WE CAN BEAT THIS LUNATIC YET! I THINK HE'LL KEEP HIS WORD--IF WE CAN BEAT HIM AT THIS DEVIL'S GAME!

FOR HALF AN HOUR MIKE PLUNGES INTO THE THICK JUNGLE! THEN...
I COME FAR ENOUGH NOW! I THINK I'LL CIRCLE AROUND AND COME CLOSE TO THE HOUSE! IF I CAN GET IN-- MAYBE FIND A GUN AND SOME AMMUNITION--

SUDDENLY...
YIIIIIIII!
SNAP!

GAAA--MY--L-LEGS, BROKEN! I--CRUSHED! DIRTY RAT! I-- UNHHH!

AND LATER...
THIS ONE DEAD, TUAN! NO SPORT WITH HIM!
YES, THE POOR FOOL! LETTING HIMSELF BE CAUGHT IN ONE OF MY MAN TRAPS! WELL, THERE'S STILL THE SCOTSMAN--AND HE'S THE INTELLIGENT ONE! WE MAY HAVE A GOOD HUNT YET, MOCAMBA!

AT THAT MOMENT...
AYE, POOR MIKE WAS FOOLISH TO LET HIMSELF BE CAUGHT SO! I'LL NO OBLIGE YE THAT WAY, MR. POINDEXTER! BUT IT'S GIVEN ME AN IDEA!

SO... POINDEXTER MUST KNOW WHERE EACH ONE OF HIS DIRTY TRAPS IS LOCATED! BUT IF I CAN FIND ONE, AND CHANGE IT, THEN WE'LL SEE--

SOON... A FIENDISH MACHINE! BUT I'VE FOUND IT AND NOW MAYBE I CAN OUTFOX THE FOX! I DINNA KEN THAT MY SCHEME WILL WORK, BUT IT'S AS GOOD A CHANCE AS I'LL GET!

CAUTIOUSLY ANGUS MOVES THE DEADLY TRAP TO A NEW POSITION AND COVERS IT WITH GRASSES...
DONE! NOW IF I CAN ENTICE THE LUNATIC INTO PURSUING ME-- AND LEAD HIM INTO HIS OWN TRAP! I'LL HAVE REVENGE FOR YE YET, MIKE, LAD!

BUT JUST THEN...
HO--YOU FIND TRAP! I TELL-- TUAN! COME!
GOT TO KILL HIM!

I CAN'T HANDLE TWO OF THEM! GOT TO KILL HIM FAST!
TUAN! I FIND-- COME QUICK!

PART PAYMENT FOR MIKE, YOU HEATHEN! I HOPE IT HURTS YOU!
EYEEEE!

NEARING POINDEXTER APPROACHING, ANGUS QUICKLY CONCEALS HIMSELF IN THE BRUSH NEAR THE DEATH TRAP...
SO YOU KILLED MY SERVANT, McCABE! SMART OF YOU! BUT IT WON'T SAVE YOU! I'LL GET YOU!
HE KNOWS I'M CLOSE BY! IF ONLY HE KEEPS COMING THIS WAY---

AND THEN...
I--YAOWW!
LITTLE SURPRISE, POINDEXTER! I CHANGED THE TRAP!

I--UH--HELP ME! CRUSHING ME-- GAAA! DON'T LET ME DIE IN THIS--UNHH-- HELP, FOR THE LOVE OF HEAVEN!
AYE--I'LL HELP YOU!-- TO THE NEAREST PORT, AND TO A TRIAL FOR MURDER--WHICH IS MORE THAN YOU DESERVE! BUT MOST LIKELY THEY'LL PUT YE IN THE ASYLUM FOR LIFE! NOW-- WHERE IS THE BOAT?

LATER...
A GOOD THING YOU TALKED, POINDEXTER! MAYBE THE SURGEONS CAN SAVE THOSE LEGS YET! BUT NOW I'LL BE GETTING UNDER WAY!
I SHOULD LEAVE YOU HERE TO DIE, BUT I'M A STICKLER FOR SEEING THINGS THROUGH TO THE END!
MANTRAP II

THAT'S RIGHT, YOU FOOL! GO TO THE ENGINE--HEH--HEH! OPEN THE COWLING! THERE, NOW! JUST INSIDE THE-- NO, TO THE RIGHT! YES, THAT'S IT! THE STARTER SWITCH! NOW JUST FLICK IT, WITH ONE SIMPLE LITTLE MOTION! YES! YOU TURNED IT ON--

WITH A TOUCH OF HIS FINGERS, McCABE THREW ON THE AUTOMATIC STARTER-SWITCH... AND SPRUNG THE LAST TRAP... THE SWITCH HAD BEEN MOST CAREFULLY WIRED... WITH DYNAMITE!
Y!!!!!!!
The End

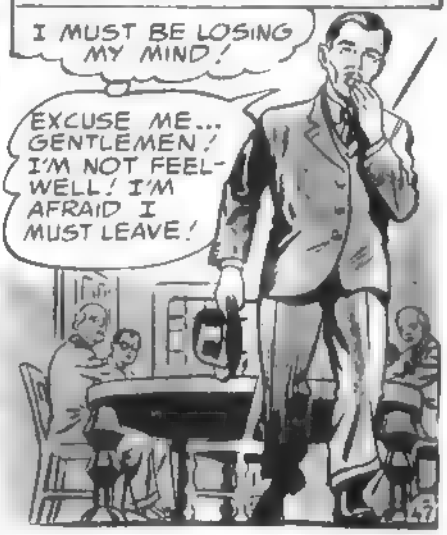
THE HAND OF FATE WILL NOT BE DETERRED FROM EXECUTING ITS APPOINTED TASKS... AND HE WHO SHALL GLIMPSE THE FUTURE SHALL BE HELPLESS TO FORESTALL ITS COURSE. FOR NO MORTAL CAN OBSTRUCT DESTINY... NOT EVEN THE

MIRROR of DEATH

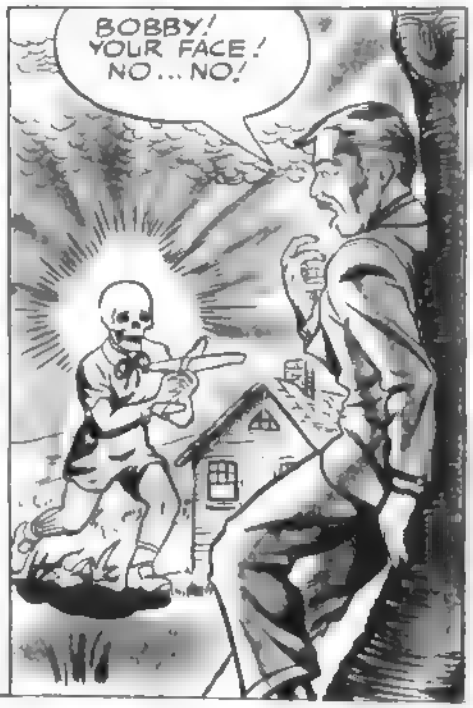
THERE WAS NO TIME FOR LUTHER MANNING TO PUZZLE OVER THE HINDU'S STRANGE WORDS! THE BANK WAS HOLDING A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND HE WAS ALREADY LATE...

THE MEETING GOT UNDER WAY AND THE INCIDENT OF THE MORNING WAS ALL BUT FORGOTTEN... SUDDENLY LUTHER FOUND HIMSELF STARING IN UTTER DISBELIEF AND HORROR AT THE FACE OF THE MAN OPPOSITE HIM!

LUTHER SHUT HIS EYES, TRYING TO SHAKE OFF THE HALLUCINATION, BUT WHEN HE REOPENED THEM, THE APPARITION WAS STILL THERE!



THE OLDER MAN CHUCKLED WITH DELIGHT AS THE YOUNGSTER RAN TO RETRIEVE THE GLIDER... BUT WHEN THE CHILD TURNED TO HAND IT TO HIM, TERROR CLUTCHED THE HEART OF LUTHER MANNING!



LUTHER RETURNED HOME AFTER MAKING SURE THAT THE BOY WAS SECURELY LOCKED IN HIS ROOM...BUT HIS MIND COULD NOT REST!
NOT BOBBY! PLEASE, GOD... NOT BOBBY!

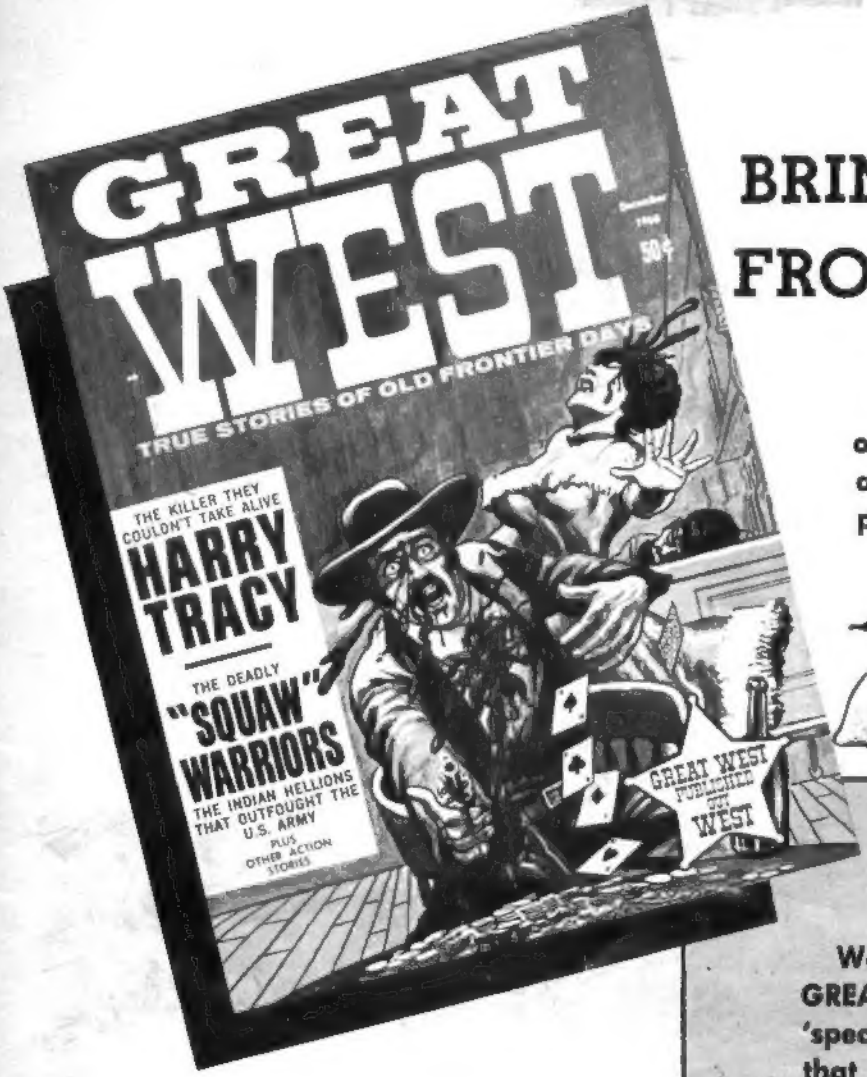
SUDDENLY A HORRIBLE FEAR GRIPPED HIM! FRANTICALLY HE DROVE TO HIS DAUGHTER'S HOME...
FATHER, WHAT IS IT? YOU LOOK WHITE!
THE BOY...IS HE SAFE? ARE YOU SURE HE'S SAFE?

OF COURSE HE IS...COME UPSTAIRS! I'LL SHOW YOU!
I WON'T BE ABLE TO REST UNTIL I SEE HIM WITH MY OWN EYES!

HE HASN'T BEEN OUT OF HIS ROOM SINCE... SNIFF... SNIFF... WHAT IS THAT STRANGE ODOR?
GAS! OPEN THE DOOR... QUICKLY!

THEY BROKE INTO THE GAS-FILLED ROOM AND THREW OPEN THE WINDOW, BUT IT WAS TOO LATE! THE FUMES FROM THE LEAKY GAS LAMP HAD ALREADY SNUFFED OUT THE LIFE OF THE LITTLE BOY! DESTINY HAD BEEN FULFILLED!
HE'S DEAD! MY BOBBY IS DEAD!
...AND I KNEW IT WOULD HAPPEN! I TRIED TO PREVENT IT AND I COULDN'T!

Continued on back cover



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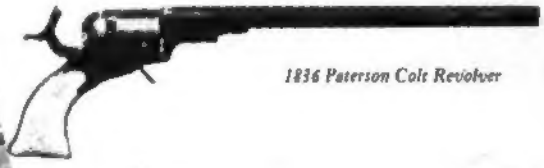

1836 Paterson Colt Revolver

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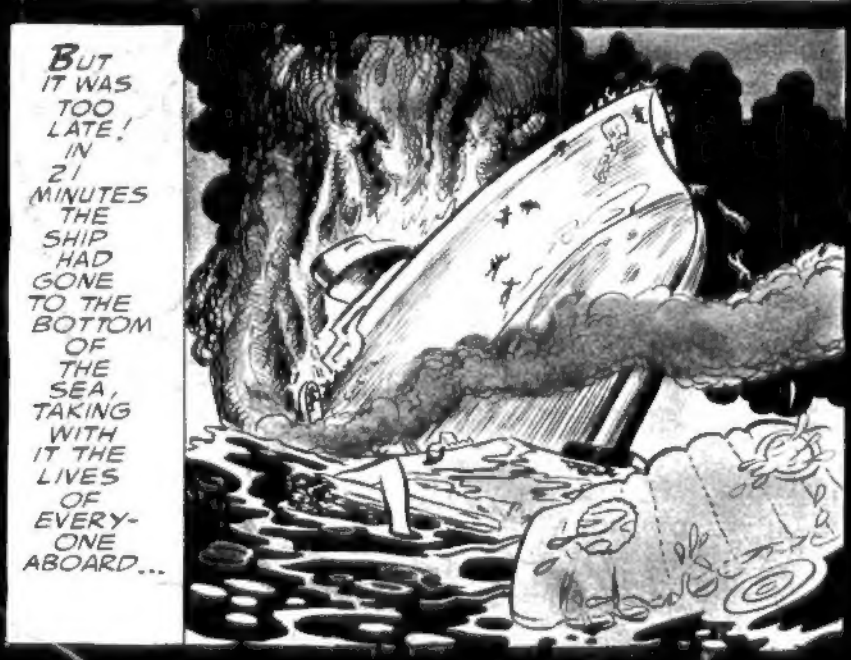
THEY'RE ALL... ALL DEATH'S HEAD...

THE SHIP... IT MUST BE IN DANGER... MUST FIND THE CAPTAIN... TELL HIM...

SUDDENLY THERE WAS A DEAFENING EXPLOSION WHICH ROCKED THE VESSEL FROM STEM TO STERN!
WE'VE BEEN TORPEDOED!
SUBMARINE!
MAN THE LIFEBOATS!


BUT IT WAS TOO LATE! IN 21 MINUTES THE SHIP HAD GONE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA, TAKING WITH IT THE LIVES OF EVERY-ONE ABOARD...

EXTRA
LUSITANIA SUNK
SHIP TORPEDOED BY GERMAN SUB, 1154 LIVES LOST.
The End
...AND THE FINAL CHAPTER OF LUTHER MANNING'S STRANGE STORY WAS CARRIED IN EVERY NEWSPAPER IN THE WORLD!